UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Bishop

FROM : G. E. Malmfeldt

DATE: 4-1-69

SUBJECT: HAROLD WEISBERG
COQ D'OR PRESS
FREDERICK, MARYLAND

This is to recommend no acknowledgment of a letter dated March 24th from captioned individual wherein he is requesting information regarding the James Earl Ray case for his forthcoming book. Weisberg has been critical of Bureau in past.

By letter dated March 24th, captioned individual requested that he be furnished information, including photographs, on the James Earl Ray case for a book regarding Ray he is preparing and asked to be afforded same courtesy we extended Clay Blair, Jr., regarding his book, "The Strange Case of James Earl Ray." On March 12, 1969, Weisberg wrote Attorney General Mitchell and made allegations against Bureau Agents that they were slandering him because of his alleged influence on New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison. He requested an explanation from Mr. Mitchell regarding this. By letter dated 3/26/69, the Department acknowledged Weisberg's letter and denied allegations. Letter pointed out that from Weisberg's previous correspondence regarding the Warren Commission that it is plain any further exchange of correspondence between him and the Department of Justice will serve no useful purpose. Bufiles disclose Weisberg is author of several books, the first of which was entitled "Whitewash - The Report of the Warren Report" and has in past been critical of the Warren Commission, the FBI, Secret Service, police agencies and other branches of Government. He was one of ten employees fired by State Department during 1947 because of suspicion of being a communist or having communist sympathies. In 1961 he and his wife were subject of a Federal Tort Claims Act investigation for damages allegedly sustained in poultry business as a result of low flying helicopters. We did not cooperate with Clay Blair, Jr., in connection with preparation of his book but we did look over his rough manuscript and several major discrepancies regarding us were pointed out to him.

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In view of Weisberg's background and his baseless allegations toward Bureau Agents, it is not felt his letter of March 24th or any subsequent correspondence should be acknowledged as it will only encourage further letters from him.

RECOMMENDATION: That this letter of March 24th not be acknowledged for reasons heretofore set forth.

XEROX
APR 9 1969

- Mr. DeLoach

- Mr. Bishop - Enclosures (3)

FMG:eac (4)

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